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THANKSGIVING, NINETY-SEVEN.

Thank Thee, O God, who didet ordain The bounteous crops that nature yields, Who gave to earth the sun and rain. And blessed the workers in the fields !

Our barns are filled with golden stores The happy land's astir with health, The world's a-begging at our doors To share in this imperial wealth.

We bring, O Lord, with willing hand, The fruit of love and labor's gain, The gift that rises from the land, The growth of valley, hill, and plain.

Bank Notes or Government Notes?

Out of the multitude of conflicting schemes of currency reform which are now urged upon the people, a fundamental issue is shaping itself, which will have to be decided before any measure of permanent utility can be arrived at. It is this: Shall the paper money of the nation be issued exclusively by the banks, or shall it be issued exclusively by the Government? At present, both agencies are in operation, and each one is struggling for supremacy over the other. This condition of things cannot last. One or the other of the two rivals must surrender to the other, and leave to it the function of supplying the people with currency other than coin. On behalf of the banks are enlisted not

only the small army of bank stockholders and officers, and of borrowers of money who look to the banks for accommodation, but, also, the whole tribe of Mugwumps, who insist that the mass of our citizens are not to be trusted to manage their own affairs, but ought to turn over the duty to the "better class," as the only men competent to perform it. Thus, the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. LYMAN J. GAGE, who resigned the presidency of a great Chicago bank to accept his present office, spoke on Tuesday evening at the Chamber of Commerce dinner in this city of "the national Treasury awkwardly performing an office entirely foreign to its proper functions," and, on the same occasion, that superlatively eminent Mugwump, Mr. ALEXAN-DER E. ORR, said:

"I think we are all of one mind, that there canno be two great banking systems successfully operated at the same time in this country, one by the Govern nt and one by the people, and that that which is not legitimate must ultimately stand aside, and there ot be much difference of opinion that sooner o later the Government must be that one,"

In the same spirit, the Mugwump Times yesterday morning, editorially denounced the issue of currency by the Government exclusively, as a scheme of inflation destined to bankrupt the nation, because under it the currency would be controlled by Congress and not put in charge of the banks. The Times, however, omits to mention that. four times within twelve years, namely, in 1884, 1890, 1893, and 1895, the banks of this city defaulted on their obligations to their depositors, and that these depositors, in order to get currency with which to carry on their business had to sell their checks to Wall street brokers at a considerable discount. To vest in such weak institutions, and in the less responsible banks of the rural districts, the exclusive function of issuing paper money, is an act of folly which our people will never commit.

Progress toward shaping the final issue we have mentioned, has already got so far as that the advocates of bank currency are divided into two parties, one that desires to have the bank currency guaranteed by the Government and redeemed through the independent of the Government, and iseach bank against its own assets, and re-

deemed only at the counter of the bank issuing it. The advocates of a Government guaranteed and Government redeemed currency do not differ in principle from those who advocate the issue of currency by the Government direct. The difference is, that the partisans of the banks contend that the profits of the issue shall inure to the banks of the republic. and not to the Government. The Government is to print the notes, take charge of the fund for their redemption, redeem them when presented, and pay them when the banks fall to pay them. That the Government might as well do the business on its own account and for its own benefit, is too plain to need demonstration. As for allowing the thousands of little banks all over the country to issue notes at pleasure, and let the people take the risk of their being good, that is an absurdity, which

needs only to be seen to be rejected.

The Mugwump advocates of bank currency, seeing that it will be impossible to get the people to consent to the extinction by direct measures of the Government currency they now possess and the substitution for it of bank currency, aim at accomplishing the same object by indirection. They accept the measures which THE SUN has long urged, namely, the separation of the issuing of demand notes from the other business of the Treasury, the establishment. for the redemption of those notes, of a gold reserve not liable for other Government requirements, and the reissue of redeemed notes only against fresh de-posits of gold. With this measure adopted, and with the enlarged privileges of issuing circulation which they demand for the banks, they intend that the banks shall gradually turn into the Treasary all the Government notes they can procure, hoard the gold obtained for them in their own vaults, and fill the vacuum in the circulation thus created with bank notes. To defeat this scheme it is indispensable that the banks be deprived, as soon as it can be done without infringing upon their vested rights, of the privilege of issuing circulation altogether. The Government notes would thus eventually be the sole paper money of the country, and their volume would never be reduced by redemption so as to inconvenience trade.

In the present conflict THE SUN takes the only logical and sound position. It is, that all the paper money of the country shall be issued by the Government directly | true amounts for practical purposes. and redeemed by it directly, without employing the banks to do it and paying them

purchased with the money which it guarantees. Still less should the banks be allowed to issue circulation without security and without limit. The Government money should always be redeemable in gold, and instead of being, as the Times falsely asserts it would be, unlimited in amount, it would be limited by redemption to no greater volume than the wants of legitimate business require. How much this volume could consistently with its redemption be increased over that of our present Government money, experience would determine. Probably \$236,000,000 of it would be needed to take the place of the \$236,000. 000 of outstanding bank currency, and possibly more; but, whatever its amount, it should always be redeemable in gold, and, therefore, it would be as good as gold.

A National Thanksgiving Day.

How many of our good Americans remember when Thanksgiving became a national holiday? It is worth while to remind the younger generation, at least, when and how this happened. Every schoolboy is familiar with the story of the early settlers of bleak New England, who, when unexpectedly delivered from the perils of starvation in a savage wilderness, solemnly gave thanks to Almighty God for this signal interposition in their favor. And how, from age to age, from generation to generation, this plous resolve bloomed and ripened until Thanksgiving became national and not sectional, this, too, is a matter of history so conspicuous that to recall all the successive stages of the process would be superfluous.

Still, the annual call to thankfulness from all the people remained a matter of local, not national, concern. Up to the breaking out of the great civil war, each State (possibly with a very few exceptions) through its own Executive made public proclamation of an autumnal day for thanksgiving, prayer, and praise for the material blessings of the year. True, during the Presidential term of the Illustrious Washington, "the unexampled prosperity of all classes of our citizens" and our enjoyment of peace and tranquillity induced that great and good man to issue his proclamation appointing the 19th of February, 1795, as a day for thanksgiving and prayer.

It is also true that, of all Washington's more immediate successors, only James Madison was devout enough or thoughtful enough to ask the people of the United States to come together and observe a day for national thanksgiving. The festival, so far as the nation was concerned, lost its

homogeneous character. It remained for ABRAHAM LINCOLN of blessed memory to revive a custom sograte. ful to the hearts and so alluring to the homes of the American people. The cause of the imperilled Federal Union was at the lowest low-water mark in the summer of 1863. The men and women of the present generation of Americans cannot know the bitterness of the dark days of that summer. God grant that they may never know such days! The turning point came in July, when, in the midst of a popular depression most profound, the fall of Vicksburg opened the Mississippi so that the Father of Waters thereafter flowed unvexed to the sea, and LEE's invasion of the North was frustrated by the battle of Gettysburg. The country flamed with excitement, and although the war still lasted longer than the most sanguine of those who agonized for peace could have expected, it was felt that the end of strife could not be greatly delayed. President LINCOLN issued an official bulletin addressed to the people of the United States in which, after recounting the events which appeared to be the harbingers of the return of peace, he expressed his de-sire that "He whose will, not ours, should evermore be done, be everywhere remembered and reverenced with profoundest gratitude." This was on the Fourth of July, 1863, and on the fifteenth day of that month the President issued his proclamation appointing the 6th of August as a day for National Thanksgiving. He recited the reasons for the people's the States would be maintained, their Constitution preserved, and their peace and prosperity permanently restored." And in his recommendation for an observance of the day appointed, he be-Treasury; and one that desires to have it sought the people to invoke Divine wisdom "to lead the whole nation through sued, as it was, thirty-five years ago, by paths of repentance and submission to the Divine will, back to the perfect enjoyment of union and fraternal peace." Young stu-

> On the 3d of October, in that same year, President LINCOLN issued another proclamation setting apart the last Thursday in November to be observed as a National Thanksgiving Day. From that time forward each succeeding President of the United States has followed the precedent set by ABRAHAM LINCOLN, to whom belongs the credit of making the festival truly national.

dents of their country's history cannot do

better than read this unique proclama-

tion, if they would know something of the

great, loving nature of ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

whose heart, in the midst of wasting war,

yearned so fondly for the happiness, peace,

and prosperity of every son and daughter

The civil war accomplished many things for us as a people. Some of these things were to have been expected; many of them were unlooked for. Among the results of the war was the establishment of a national homogeneity before unknown. No section of the Union lost its self-respect and all gained in respect for every other Briefly, sections and sectional lines disappeared. We became one, with one hope,

one destiny. And with the animation of one common purpose, moved by a common impulse, on this National Thanksgiving Day, we may well thank the Almighty Ruler of Mankind that He has made us and preserved us a nation.

# Uncle Sam as a Land Owner.

The statistics of the General Land Office show that this country, first and last, has had the prodigious amount of 1,835,017,-962 acres of land to dispose of. This are: includes everything not in the original thirteen States, as now constituted.

These lands fall into four classes. First are those already disposed of or appropriated. They include 214,414,395 acres sold for cash, 102,280,228 taken up as homesteads, 165,476,402 granted to States, projects, State or corporation, 70,000,000 in private grants, 60,252,790 in military bounty warrants, 16,118,228 in timberculture entries, and other smaller classes, aggregating 741,702,365 acres, under this head. For various reasons these estimates are rough, but they are near enough to the

Next we have the reserved lands. These include \$1,645,413 acres set apart for the

for it by paying them interest on bonds | Indians, 18,993,280 as forest reservations, this in the case of Austro-Hungary, which purchased with the money which it guar- 3,272,960 as national parks, 825,425 for is leagued with her German enemy. She forts and other military purposes, with enough miscellaneous to bring the aggre-

gate to 132,441,774. The third great class comprises the lands of Alaska, in which few surveys and disposals have yet been made, the aggregate being 369,529,600. With the advance of civilization Alaska may not remain wholly a class by itself.

Finally, we have the fourth class, or lands now vacant and subject to settlement, amounting to 591,343,953 acres. Of these, however, nearly half, or 272,-294,120 acres, have not yet been surveyed. The largest body of vacant public lands is in Montana, 71,432,917 acres, Nevada following with 61,578,586, and Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico. Utah, and Wyoming each having over 40.000,000 acres.

But while these figures of the extent of the public lands available for settlement are so great, practically a large part of the best land, in accessible places, is taken up. The arid tracts not susceptible of irrigation and the mountain and forest regions which cannot now be used for farming constitute a very considerable portion of the nearly 600,000,000 acres of vacant public lands. The old saying that "Uncle Sam is rich enough to give us all a farm" is not heard much nowadays. He is still a big land owner, but has been lavish with his best possessions.

### Newspapers and the Election.

"The decline of the influence of the press. especially in New York," is treated of by the State, of Columbia, in South Carolina, as having been demonstrated in our late election. With that assumption as a text, our South Carolina contemporary preaches a moving homily on the causes of the indifference of the New York public to newspaper opinions. The assumption, however, is false and

groundless. Never before was the power of newspapers in influencing public opinion demonstrated so strikingly as in our recent election. The Low vote was drummed up wholly by the newspapers, and it was a large vote. Without newspaper help, he would have made no show at the polls which would have been at all impressive. Moreover, he owed his strength at the election to a pure fiction of newspaper manufacture. Actually, there is no such thing as "Plattism." It is simply the usual methods of party organization which prevail in the country generally. They are substantially the same as those pursued by Thurlow Werd in the early history of the Republican party in this State, and afterward by Roscoe Conkling. In particular, they bear a close resemblance to those of that consummate Democratic leader and manager, SAMUEL J. TILDEN. All the same, New York newspapers succeeded in making a bogy of "Plattism,"

of the Republicans themselves. If that was not a striking journalistic feat, and if it did not demonstrate the power of newspapers over public opinion, where else can a more impressive be found? When newspapers can fool thus an enlightened community, how can it be said that

with which they frightened many thou-

sands of otherwise sensible and intelligent

citizens, including a very considerable part

their influence is declining? Tammany's success followed as a natural consequence of this newspaper humbug. Low's election was impossible, since the prevailing public spirit was opposed to the tone and theory of municipal government for which he stood, and this opposition was aggravated and intensified by his campaign and the persons and influences directing it. Because Tammany stood most squarely against the things the Low movement sought to accomplish it was put in power by a great majority over him.

That is all the lesson to be learned from our election, so far as the influence of newspapers is concerned. It showed that the number of people in New York who can be fooled by the newspapers is great, and that augmented confidence that the Union of | the newspapers who set about it methodically have great power to fool them.

> The Alleged Necessity of Defending Europe Against the United States.

We have waited a day or two to see whether any one in Europe would throw light on the curious assertion publicly made by Count GOLUCHOWSKI, the Austro-Hungarian Minister, that measures must be promptly taken to protect the Continent Europe against the competition of American republics. All that can be gleaned from the comments on the speech is that Russia and Hungary, which, normally, produce a considerable surplus of wheat for export, would like to keep the Continental market to themselves by shutting out of it the wheat from the United States and Argentina.

In order to carry out this proposal, it would, obviously, be needful that all the countries of Continental Europe, which are normally or occasionally importers of wheat, should agree to admit the product of Russia and Hungary duty free, while imposing a duty on the wheat coming from the United States and Argentina; or else should arrange a joint scheme of preferential duties which should discriminate against the American republics named. It is extremely improbable that such an arrangement could be made. It is possible, indeed, that the Berlin Government might desire to oblige its Austrian ally by admitting Hungarian wheat upon terms more favorable than those prescribed by the existing tariff. The reduction, however, if considerable enough to prove of value to Hungarian agriculturists, would provoke a storm of protests on the part of the German Agrarian party. Moreover, the slightest lowering of rates in the interests of Austro-Hungary would accrue to the benefit of every other country, the commercial treaty between which and Germany contains the 'most favored nation" clause. Germany therefore, in order to satisfy the wheat producers of Hungary, would have to denounce almost all of her existing commercial treaties, and this at a time when the export of German manufactures is increasing at a rate which has excited a good deal of dismay in England. But if Germany, in view of the consequences, could not afford o make any concession to Austro-Hungary in the way of preferential duties upon grain, much less could she do it in the case 106,584,898 given to railroads and other of Russia, which, considered as an exporter roads, canals and river improvement of wheat to neighboring countries, is eyed by the German husbandman with far more apprehension.

If we turn to France we are encountered by conditions essentially similar. France, no doubt, would be glad, if she could, to gratify her ally, the St. Petersburg Government, by admitting Russian wheat upon easier terms than those imposed upon the product of transatlantic countries, but she

is leagued with her German enemy. She could not, however, favor Russian wheat without denouncing her commercial treaties with all other countries which contain the "most favored nation" clause, and among these treaties would be those with the United States and Argentina. French manufacturers would thus be exposed, as would German manufacturers under like conditions, to lose the hold which they now possess on transatlantic markets, and their loss would mean the gain of England, which would be quite able to supply the whole American and Argentine demand for

imported manufactures. Thus we see that it would not be practicable to bring about a commercial league of Continental Europe having for its purpose the exclusion of American food products. It was a resentful wish rather than a deliberate and hopeful purpose which Count Goluchowski expressed. Like other Austro-Hungarian statesmen, he remembers the downfall of MAXIMILIAN, and regards with ire the inclination of the American people to interfere in behalf of the Cuban subjects of Queen CHRISTINA, who is an Austrian Archduchess. He is also annoyed because the Dingley tariff has, to some extent, checked the outflow of Austro-Hungarian products to the United States. He knows that Germany, France, and Italy have likewise been pinched by the Dingley tariff, and, accordingly, it occurred to him that now or never was the time to organize a collective counter-move ment against American food staples. Now or never is, no doubt, the alternative, but the Austro-Hungarian Minister will find that it is "never," and not "now.'

Assuming, however, for the sake of argument, that it might be possible to combine the whole of Continental Europe in a customs league, the sole aim of which should be to bar out the United States, Argentina and such other American republics as are exporters of food, we can see that the result would be disastrous, and almost catastrophic for the members of such a combination. From those countries to which we could send nothing we should be unable to buy anything; and all the work done in this hemisphere for so many years by the agents the manufacturers of Continental Europe would be thrown away. We should be cast into the arms of England, who would become our sole European purveyor, for the reason that she would be our sole European customer.

Contrasting, as we should be forced to do. the repellent attitude of Continental Europe with England's eagerness to welcome us, it may be that our traditional good will toward France and Russia would eventually give way, and be replaced by contrary sentiments. There would be, in a word, no surer way of performing the difficult task of converting the majority of Americans from Anglophobists into Anglophilists than for Continental Europe to organize a tariff league against American products.

### Industry Elevators.

It is two or three days since any proposals for a new party have been received at this office. The fault has not been ours. The party makers have been busy getting ready for Thanksgiving. But now the bird has been bought and the intellect leaps again.

The latest party on the list is the Federal party. This party is going to "reconcile civil liberty with industrial dependence' by a process which may be thought kinder to industrial dependence, whatever that is, than to civil liberty. The functions of the Government are to be extended. Nothing less could be expected of a Federal party. Property rights are not to be affected. It is really pleasant to find somebody in the new party line who is willing to grant that property has any rights. The new Federalists are unexpectedly conservative.

The elevation of depressed industry is to be brought about by means of an amendment to the Constitution. A simple remedy, the inevitable preamble of a new party. Industry, depressed to earth, is to ment which provides that the industries of the country, duly and broadly classified. shall have immediate representation in Congress, said representatives, arranged in departments like a monopolist store, to be chosen by the depressed industrialists in each classified industry, agriculture, commerce, fish, and so on. From these departments or compartments of depressed industry are to come "all administrative powers required to conduct the industries of the country." Constitutional conduct of industries is not only to make American industries flourish like a green bay tree, but, in the opinion of the new Federalist or Federalists, "it will be an advance in gov-

ernmental science." Possibly the people are not yet sufficiently advanced to make this advance. Still, there is something attractive about these departments of industry elevators.

## The Theatre as a Barometer of Trade.

Thanksgiving Day is traditionally the best day in the year for theatre managers, if not always for their patrons. It is a somewhat significant circumstance this year, an evidence of returning prosperity, that the principal theatres have been crowded recently to repletion, and the familiar sign "Last Nights" is not to be observed in the announcements of the chief places of amusement. At least five of the principal houses have been playing to what is called in the phraseology of the box office "standing room only." This designation, long in use, has not always the merit of accuracy; for, when theatrical business is very good and public patronage is abnormally large, there is not even any standing room. The old phrase, however, has been so long in use that it has come to have a special significance.

Usually when theatrical business is languishing, managers seek to attract audiences by announcements concerning either the close of the current bill or the imminence of the substitution of a new bill. When public patronage is liberal, as is now the case, no such announcements are made. A perusal of the advertisements of some of the leading theatres shows that not before in many years have there been so many houses in New York with a clear field and without underlined future attractions. This is invariably a sign of good business. of returning prosperity and of the restoration of those material conditions which are most favorable to general business.

Another inevitable sign of assured pros perity reflected in the patronage of theatres in large cities, is the character of the entertainments offered. When times are bad, when the current of business has slackened when the pressure of obligations overdue is heavy and the means of meeting them are scant, it is found uniformly that light, frivolous, diverting, and nonsensical entertainments predominate, bringing a surcease of care and distracting the attention of would have no motive whatever for doing | theatregoers from more serious matters.

tions, more serious and more substantial performances become the general Plays of a historical character, rule. those based upon popular novels of established merit, Shakespearean plays, and old comedy revivals come to the front. These conditions are now seen at a majority of the principal New York theatres, where plays of a serious character appeal to the intelli-

gence of the best theatregoers. Further evidence of prosperous conditions is found in the standard of prices for theatre seats. This has been raised, gradually and pretty generally, for the best places, with a corresponding advance in the prices charged for those less desirable. When times are bad and business is poor the theatrical managers, always alert to the state of the public's purse, announce reductions to what are sometimes called "popular prices." These recessions reflect existing conditions. When times have improved, or are manifestly improving, additions here and there are made to the scale of prices charged. Just now at first-class theatres the tariff is about as high as it ever has

been in New York. Altogether, the theatrical situation on Thanksgiving Day, 1897, the best day of the year for the managers, indicates the improved conditions which general business prosperity is rapidly restoring. And each house in New York gives two performances to-day.

### Bryanism in Long Clothes,

The Democrats of Springfield, Mass., have nominated a candidate for Mayor on a platform which cries for the municipal ownership of gas, electricity, and street railroads. The man who offered the resolutions advocated them on the ground, among others. that "municipal ownership is in line with national ownership, which is coming to the front in the near future as a national question." Only "a few scattering nays" were cast against this platform.

In Springfield, which most people would regard as a conservative town, the Democracy is committed to a policy of municipal ownership, as a preparation for national ownership, of certain conveniencies or necessities. This policy, once started, cannot stop at any limits assigned to it now. Municipal and national bake shops, butcher shops, beer shops must come if the sentimental and demagogic clamor about "franchises" goes on. A terrible, all-meddling, all-powerful socialist State, controlling all the means of production and distribution, is the logical result of such a policy as the Springfield Democrats have jauntily announced.

Bryanism grows worse as it grows older.

In a pamphlet entitled "The Rent-Producing Capacity of Cuba," Senor FIDEL G. PIERRA opposes the plan that the Cubans shall pay to Spain a heavy war indemnity in exchange for the recognition of their independence,

In Seffor PIERRA's opinion \$100,000,000 is a heavy burden to impose upon the republic of Cuba as its initial national debt. The wealth of the island, very much overestimated by Spanish writers, has been destroyed almost totally by the war. The population has been greatly reduced, and the community's credit cannot be reëstablished for several years after peace is won. How could 1,400,000 inhabitants, a liberal estimate of Cuba's population at the end of the present war, pay off a debt amounting to

Senor PIERRA points out the fact that Chili. Colombia, and the Argentine Republic, all having larger populations than Cuba's and richer lands, have smaller debts in proportion to their rent-producing capacity and the number of their nhabitants. It is sad, he remarks, to have to pay such an enormous indemnity after so many sacrifices of blood and treasure for the recognition of Cuba's right to freedom.

# GEORGE FREDERICK WILLIAMS of Massachu-etts has the most beautiful collection of defeats of

setts has the most beautiful coll any man in politics.—Trop Press. Troy interfered with the gods more than once and with the Greeks once, and was punished for it. Has Troy learned nothing? The middle name of one of the most modest statesmen in Dedham, Mass., is not "FREDERICK," but piain "FRED." "FREDERICK" savors of the feudal rise again through a Constitutional amend- and the plutocratic, the robber barons, and the money lords. Plain "FRED" is appropriate to a plain "friend of the plain people," Mr. Wil-LIAMS is much more friendly to the "people" than the "people" are to him, but that is no reason why Troy should try to rob him of his just name. Nor is it true that he has a collection of defeats. When he seems to be beaten, the 'people" are beaten. Ask him.

> The Hon. EUCLID MARTIN, a Nebraska National Democrat of fame, says: "If Bryanism remains supreme I shall be a Republican. As Bryanism does remain supreme, it is time for Mr. MARTIN to carry out his resolution. National Democrats are getting to be the loneliest things on earth.

We have too many statesmen like that Populist who, after making the welkin roar in behalf of the referendum, wrote to a newspaper to ask what the referendum meant.—Philadelphia Ledger.

How can there be too many such statesmen How can there be enough! You might as well say that we could ever hear or have enough of the referendum. The charm of the referendum to highly poetic natures is the beauty and the mystery of its name. Associated with the equally fascinating name of initiative it becomes the dream and hope of millions. "In Xanadu did Kubla KHAN." Would this be improved by substitut-ing "in Canada did JUBA COONS!" Who cares what referendum means! It means to the ear of a judicious hearer a thousand things utterable and a million unutterable, If Millon had heard of the initiative and referendum he would have put them on the map. They have more than the music of Javan and Gadire, of Ormus or of Ind. COLERIDGE would have woven a garment of pipe dreams around dark poem of refrains. KIPLING may get hold of them yet.

HALL CAINE'S physician has ordered him to take a long rest.—Cleveland Leader.

A long rest for Mr. CAINE must mean that he is writing another long book. A long rest for the rest of the community means that he has promised not to write.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Clarksville Times, unites with certain other hopeful calculators of political nativities in nominating the Hon. CARTER HARRISON of Chicago as the Democratic candidate for President in 1900. Mr. Harnison is an active young man, and he is surrounded by a cordon of statesmen, but if it be true that he discharged an elevator boy in the Chicago City Hall for the crime of not knowing him by sight, he will have to learn to be a trifle less rash and sudden before he can be considered as an important political quantity. Horses, light or dark, must not be allowed to kick upon too light provocation.

A just man struggling with the storm of politics and his own powerful ideas may be pitied, if not helped, on Thanksgiving Day. Such a man is the Hon. THOMAS JONES.JONES. Governor of Arkansas. Mr. Jones-Jones wept last Thanksgiving, and he has made solem proclamation of his intention to weep to-day. Casting his penetrating eye over the country, the Hon. THOMAS JONES JONES cannot find prosperity. sperity. "Where is prosperity!"
"The Money Devil may be proshe cries. He usually is. He battens on the blood of the plain people. Are they prosperous? They never will be until we have 16 to 1,

Jowes whimpers and sulks. Turkey is a sor-row to him. If he will abide cranberry sauce, it is for the hope of congenial sourcess. More than the hope of the "tolling masses" has been ruined in JONES-JONES's opinion. Nobody was killed in the big football games, Jones-Jones hates football as if it were an honest dollar. Don't forget to make due libation of icewater to-day in honor of Jones-Jones.

Sol. Van PRAAG says "I guess there are You know not SOLOMON and deny all his glory. Unique, unrivalled, unapproachable, unparaleled, unlimited, the Hon, Sot, VAN PRAAG elitters among and above the ordinary statesmen, extraordinary elsewhere, of Chicago, even as the moon among the minor stars. John POWERS wears the red light of Mars. HINKY Dryg is the distant but impressive Aldebaran. BATH HOUSE JOHN imitates the cold and billious light without light of Saturn. All the rest together and all the myriad milky ways of all these "sparklers" and bosom glasses and rings of price are, compared with the fulgence, refulgence and effulgence of SOL VAN PHAAG, as the pale bronze head of TOM WATSON is to the primeval fires that baked the world.

The descriptions of the garb donned by the Hon. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN, leading juvenile in the melodrama of "The Silver King, when he witched Missouri with noble footballship last Tuesday, cannot be trusted. In some respects they are intrinsically improbable. good man need refuse to believe that the heroic orm of the leading juvenile was draped "in a striped sweater" when he strode upon the field of fame. No good man can be induced by argunents or tortures to believe that the heroic form wasdraped in a sweater of "old gold and black." Black it might put on as a sign against prosper ity. Gold, the accursed livery of the Money Kings, it would not paint itself with in health or in disease. The leading juvenile's motley consisted of blue and silver, 16 stripes to 1. Blue for regret and silver for immortal hope.

### Breaking "the Endless Chain."

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The vigorous editor dal in this morning's issue, in which the process o creaking the "endless chain" is set forth so that any ne may understand it, contains one point upon which there is likely to be a difference of opinion sufficient to defeat the proposed measure which you properly regard the best that can at present be devised with hope of success. I refer to the provise to

repeal the act of May 31, 1878.

A careful reading of that act will show that, in addition to directing the relsaue of the greenbacks once redeemed, it also prohibits the cancellation of the notes provided for in the Resumption act of 1875; equently the repeal of the act of 1878 would permit (if not actually direct) the cancellation of notes redeemed in coin.

It appears wise, therefore, to eliminate from the proposed measure this repealing clause; indeed no mention whatsoever need be made of the act of 1878, oe the compulsory reissue of redeem be abrogated without such reference. The simplest proposition to accomplish the purpose appears to be that embodied in the subjoined bill, introduced last July by the Hon. John Murray Mitcheil, and now before the Banking and Currency Committee of the House of Representatives. GALLATINUS. NEW YORK, Nov. 23, 1897.

A BILL TO ESTABLISH A CURRENCY RESERVE FUND.

NEW YORK, Nov. 23, 1897.

A BILL TO ESTABLISH A CURRENCY RESERVE FUND.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled: That there shall be established in the Department of the Treasury a fund, to be designated and known as the "Currency reserve fund," to be kept separate from all other funds or moneys in the Treasury, and to be secounted for distinctly from the general cash in the Treasury; provided, however, that the said fund, or any part thereof, may be held in any Sub-Treasury, mint, or assay office of the United States.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Treasury shall, immediately after the passage of this act, deposit and pay into said fund, out of the moneys now in the Treasury, the sum of one hundred and fifty millions of dollars; of which sum not over one hundred million shall consist of gold coin or builion reserved for redemption of United States notes (the said buillion to be converted into coin as speedily as may be), and the remainder of said sum shal consist of equal amounts of finited States notes and of Treasury notes of 1890. And the said Secretary of the Treasury shall further deposit and pay into the said fund, from time to time, any gold coin or buillion, United State snotes of a cash balance of \$70,000,000 (as deah balance to be determined in the same manner in which it is now determined), until the aggregate a ountin the said fund shall amount to \$200,000,000.

One shall have been deposited in said fund no bonds of the United States not actually due and payable shall be purchased or redeemed.

SEC. 3. That whenever any United States notes or Treasury notes of 1890 are presented for redemption in gold coin they shall be redeemed out of the gold coin held in said fund, and an amount of such notes shall be relasued for any purpose whatsoever except in exchange for a like amount of money held in said notes shall be relasued for any purpose whatsoever except in exchange of the two classes, for a like amount of notes of the tothe

of the other class, and may replace notes worn or unfit for circulation by new notes of the same class; but none of these exchanges shall at any time dimin-ish the amount of money to be held in the said fund. Sec. 4. That all authority whatsoever for the issue or reissue of certificates for deposits of gold coin or gold buillon is hereby rescinded. Sec. 5. That all acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repeased.

## The Gobbler's Address.

Friends and Fellow Sufferers. come not here to talk. You know too well The story of our thralldom. The bright sun rises to his course and lights A race of slaves—up a tree! He sets, and his last beams fall on a slave— Going to roost! Not such as swept along by the full tide of power The conqueror led to crimson glory And undying fame,

Whose crimson glory is no more Than cranberri Mingled with the pale cast Of celery, And whose martial cloak

And winding sheet Are oysters and gravy. But I have known deeper wrongs. I that speak to you, I had a brother once, A loo loo bird. Full of bronze feathers and nope And with a gobble in his manly boson Like the melodious pleasing Of a big bass drum

How I loved that gracious boy! Younger by fifteen months ther at once and son. He left my side. An autumn bloom on his Vaving wattles And a strut in his proud and haughty tread In one short hour That pretty, harmless bird was stain,

Butchered to make a human holiday!

Gods I can a turkey long debate Which of the two to choose, Thanksgiving or Death?

And I am told that vengeance is not ours! Oh, peers of mine, To you I must unload my grief. If you have tears to shed. Prepare to shed them now! are we to bear the ills we have Or fly to others that we wot not of? My voice is still for war ! Rouse, ye Turkeys! Rouse, ye alaves! Have ye fat sons? Look at the next Thanksgiving To see them die!

Have ye tender daughters? Look to see them torn from your arms, And carried to the shambles And if ye dare call for justice Be answered by their hash ! Yet this is thus. and this Thanksgiving law !

The Christmas number of Scribner's Magazine makes its appearance with a cover distinctly Christmas y, though not conventionally so. The contents are as timely as the cover. Mr. Frost gives his conception of the Christmas "slide" in "Pickwick." and Mr. Henry Van Dyke tells a Christmas story Rudyard Eipling affords a poem. Joel Chandler Har ris a story, Cosmo Markhouse tells about Sir Edward Poynter, President of the British Boyal Academy, and J. Russell Taylor has a poem. Guy Wetmore Carryl, Walter Wyckoff, Robert Herrick, Sarah Barn well Elilott, Charles Prescott Sherman, Whitcomb Riley, W. M. Browne, and Clara E. Laughlin are other

With improvement in business condi-tions, more serious and more substant thankful for." So the Hon. THOMAS JOHES The Proposed Scheme Criticised for Its In-

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I think attention should be drawn to the peculiar designations adopted for the artists' names on the lists proposed for the new Academy of Design. In the cases of Raphael, Michael Angelo, and Titian only the baptismal names are used, without the family names, Santi, Buonarotti, Vecelli. It is as if we should place upon one of our national structures the names of George, Daniel, and Benjamin, taking for granted that the intelligence of the reader would supply Washington, Webster, and Franklin as the most noted men of those names. In fact, these national names could be more easily taken for granted than the others, since they are so much more familiar to all.

national names could be more easily taken for granted than the others, since they are so much more familiar to all.

With Michael Angelo, no doubt Buonarotti is intended, though three men named Michael Angelo appear as important painters of the sixteenth and seventeenth conturies. The name of Raphael occurs also more than once.

With Ghirlandajo the opposite rule is adopted; it is the family name; and while Dominico is no doubt meant, there are two of hi-brothers known in the history of painting. Bottleell is only an adopted name, and that Claude Gellée should be simply called "Lorraine," that is to say, the person coming from Lorraine, seems very strange. We would not think it proper to designate a distinguished person from New York simply as "the New Yorker" instead of giving his real name.

The case becomes almost ludicrous when Jacopo Robusti appears as Tintorette, his nickname, "the little dyer." As if we should inscribe Abraham Lingoln on a public monument as "the railsplitter," or President Garfield as "the towpath boy." Such a liberty would very properly arouse public indignation.

A great educational institution like the Academy of Design, in referring in a public manner to the most famous representative men of its profession, should present their names in a form which is not only correct but dignided.

New York, Nov. 24.

which is not only correct but dignified. New York, Nov. 24. VABARL

### LONDON'S FIRE SERVICE. A Defence of British Methods Against Tankes

Aspersions. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your corespondent, Charles T. Hills, writing under the caption "London Fires and New York Fires,"

akes himself altogether too seriously. Think of a man gravely discussing a despatch which says that the Fire Department of the world's largest city takes twenty minutes to reach a fire!

Why, even a messenger boy could have walked to and from the nearby fire station in less time,

Why, even a messenger boy could have walked to and from the nearby fire station in less time, even had he forgotten the numerous telegraph offices opposite the burning building.

Mr. Hills need not have intimated that he had never seen the practical working of the London department, for that is evident upon the face of his letter. His accuracy may be judged by his fanciful statement that "the policeman probably ran to the nearest fire station," when the despatch, upon which he places so much credence, expressly says the policeman did not dare to leave his post." and could give the alarm only with his "penny (!) whistle."

The time occupied by all the details your amusing correspondent discusses is so little that, when the writer's house in the suburbs of London was burned a few years ago, the engines were working three minutes after the fire was discovered. To us in New York this is not especially quick, and any Englishman who has observed the two systems without prejudice will admit the inferiority of his own. But it is not the burlesque show Mr. Hills writes it down, If it were, \$25,000,000 fires might be the daily occurrence he seems to imagine they are.

What the London Fire Department needs is a better paid service. There, as in her Police Department, she is faulty. But please don't allow such misstatements to go unchallenged. I have several friends in London who read The Sun, and they might sheicer. Walter Lepour.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Nov. 24.

#### His Finnt Codi. From the Minneapolis Tribune.

From the Minneapolis Tribune.

There is a certain young man in this city belonging to the Four Hundred who does not call on a certain young lady of his set any more, and the great hired-girl question is at the bottom of the trouble. The young man and three companions, in their ciforts to add to their fund of worldly knowledge, attended one of the dances where the domestic help are wont to congregate on Saturday nights, and they had a very deplicated attention to a petite young lady, but pleaded a previous engagement when the time to escort the young ladies home arrived. The other evening, in glancing over his list of engagements, he discovered that it was about time to return a party call due a young lady, and started out to fulfil his engagement. He arrived at the house and rang the bell. The door was opened by the maid, who looked at the young man for a minute, and then said:

"Good gracious, you must not come to the front door to see me; the help must receive their company at the back door."

It was the petite young lady of the servants ball, and the young man fell off the steps in his hurry to leave, and this is the reason why a certain young man calls no more on a certain young lady.

Versatility.

## Versatility.

From the Chicago Dailn Tribune. "Mister, please give me a few cents to buy something to eat. I haven't had a bite for two days, and I'm—
But the man had passed on,
"Mister, won't you please give me a few cents to buy a loaf of bread far me nore old mother? She's hungry, and there hain't been any coal in the house fur—"

the house tur—"
But this man also had passed on,
"Mister, won't you please give me a few cents
fur me blind father! He hain't got no use of
his legs, and—"
The third man likewise had failed to yield up,
"Mister, won't you please be so kind as to give
a few cents to a pore orphan that hain't got no
home, and hain't had nothin' to eat sence last
Friday, and can't—"
No response." The fourth man had not seemed. Friday, and can't—"
No response. The fourth man had not seemed to hear him.
"Mister, won't you please give a few cents to a man that's dyin of thirst? I hain't had a whiskey fur three days, and I'm mighty near—Thanks! May heaven bless you, sir!"

## An Infallible Hard-Winter Sign

From the Buffalo Evening Time BATAYLA, Nov. 22.—On Friday of last week a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. George Waterman of South Byron, a settlement about ten miles distant. The advent of this youngster has caused a considerable commotion in and around that village. The reason is because the child came into the world with a fine growth of hair on its head. The capillary patch which covers the infant's head is six inches in length and enite thick.

quite thick.

A resident of South Byron, who is inclined to draw morals from all happenings, declares that the phenomenal growth of hair on this infant's head is a sure indication that a severe winter is in prospect. So sure is this man of the truth of his prognostications that he spent all of Saturday in laying in an extra supply of fuel for the coming months.

#### Badly Frightened by an Echo. From the Cincinnati Enquirer.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Nov. 21.—Engineer Frank Haring, who brought the Big Four train from North Vernon to-night, had the most frightful experience of his life. It was his first run on the road, and he was not informed as to the mysteries of "Echo Cut," a spot leared by trainmen, located near McNab's Station, Ind. As the train entered Echo Cut Haring blew his whistle several times, and in a second the sound of prolonged whistling, evidently from a train ahead of him in the cut, came back. He quickly reversed his engine, and, with his whistle throttle wide open, brought the train to a standstill. He was completely prostrated by the train he had undergone. Having brought his train on to the city, he was somewhat crestfallen when told that the supposed warning whistle was simply an echo.

## A Fountain in a Stump

From the Richmond Register, From the Richmond Register.

H. W. and J. M. Cornelison report a curious phenomenon on the farm of T. J. Smith, two miles from town, on the Lancaster pike. On cutting down a large eim tree, they were astonished to see a stream of water gush out of the stump and fall in sparkling spray like water from a fountain. This was two weeks sgo, and there has been no cessation of the flow. The supposition is that there is a spring beneath the tree, to which tree worms during the drought made an artificial channel, and when the tree was cut the water found a way of escaping.

## Lumps of Luscionsness for the Possum.

From the Albany (Ga.) Herald. From the Albany (Ga.) Herald.

Persimmons are fast getting ripe and mellow, and will soon become pendant lumps of creamy lusciousness fit for the palsies of the most fastinious epicure extant. Aside from their delicious flavor, the persimmon deserves the deepest reverence of every flooria cracker on account of the leading part it plays in keeping brier 'possum's sides round and fat throughout the winter.

From the Kunsas City Journal. The convicts of the penitentiary are still wondering if County Attorney Miller of Wyandotte, who de-livered an address before them in the prison chapel not long ago, was joking when he started out by any ing, "I am glad to see you all here to day."

# Didn't Understand.

From the Boston Traveller "Oh, Clarence," exclaimed Mrs. McBride as bar rother entered the house, "baby's cut a tooth." "Why do you let her play with knives?" asked the